

THE TWELFTH SECTION REPUTED BY SOUTHERN KNOW NOTHINGS.—We copy the following from a late number of the "American Eagle," published in Louisville, in this State:

"In accordance with previous notice, a very interesting meeting of the American party was held at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday night, of the 23d inst.

Dr. Ellis Malone presided and W. H. Pleasants acted as Secretary.

An action was made for officers of the Council for the ensuing year, which resulted in the selection of Dr. Ellis Malone for President, Jordan S. Barrow, Vice President, Richard F. Yarbrough, Treasurer, and W. H. Pleasants, Secretary.

Candidates were then nominated to be voted for at the Town election to be held on the first Monday in next month. The following is the ticket:

THOS. K. THOMAS, for Magistrate of Police.
J. J. MINNIE, for Sheriff.
A. J. NOBLE, for Assessor.
ELLIS MALONE, for Commissioner.
J. J. DAVIS, for Justice.

The following resolutions were introduced, and, after some very appropriate and pertinent remarks by J. J. Davis and Thos. K. Thomas, Esqs., they were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the course of the American members in Congress in relation to the Speakership, meets our hearty and entire approval, notwithstanding our regret of the unorganized condition of the House.

Resolved, That we will persevere in the advocacy of the principles of the American party, believing as we do honestly, that those principles form a platform on which every true American citizen may proudly stand, and commend themselves to all who desire the perpetuity of our institutions.

Resolved, That we desire no slavery plank in that platform, save the constitution of our country, and that it guarantees and secures to us ours. We ask nothing more than this, and we will have nothing less. And lastly we pledge ourselves each to other, that so far as in us lies, "Americans only shall rule America."

On motion, it was ordered that the proceedings of the meeting be published in the American Eagle.

ELLIS MALONE, Pres't.

W. H. PLEASANTS, Sec'y.

The "Eagle," as a matter of course, approves this movement. It trusts that the Southern K. N.'s will not insist on the 12th section, and says it "wants no slavery plank in the platform of the national American party." Now, let us see what this "slavery plank" is, which is thus rejected by slaveholders. It is as follows:

"XII.—The American party having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violations of the laws of either. And as systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties having elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril, it has therefore become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity to the Union.

And as experience has shown it impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disunionists, and as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws; the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and of future peace, to abide by and maintain the existing laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject, in spirit and in substance.

And regarding it the highest duty to avow their opinions upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared as the sense of this National Council, that Congress possesses no power, under the Constitution, to legislate upon the subject of Slavery in the States where it does or may exist, or to exclude any State from admission into the Union, because its Constitution does or does not recognize the institution of Slavery as a part of its social system; and expressly precluding any expression of opinion upon the subject of Slavery, to establish or prohibit Slavery in any Territory, it is the sense of the National Council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of Slavery within the Territories of the United States, and that any interference by Congress with Slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia, would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the National faith.

There it is. The Louisville Know Nothings want no such plank in their platform. Wherefore? Because their desire for success in the next Presidential campaign is stronger than their regard for the rights of their section—stronger than their attachment for the Union according to the Constitution; they know that, if the 12th section be insisted on, they cannot act in harmony with the abolition Know Nothings of the free States, and will, as an inevitable result, be defeated. Turn and twist as you will, gentlemen, that is your position. What next?

Who will follow the Louisville Know Nothings? We might enlarge upon this movement; but it is not necessary to do so now, especially as it originated in a local contest for office, and is the work, doubtless, of a very few influential persons. By the way, how did the election terminate? Did the people of Louisville—slaveholders—defend and sustain, or did they ignore their own rights?

COMPLETION OF THE N. C. RAILROAD.—The Petersburg Intelligencer notices as follows the completion of this great work:

"We take great pleasure in stating that this great work has at last been finished, and that from Goldsboro' to Charlotte trains are already passing through, all the way. We congratulate the old North upon this occasion, as this road will be productive to her people of immense benefits. It will open up new sources of wealth and give additional impetus to the spirit of improvement which is abroad in her land. Nor will its beneficial influences be limited altogether to North Carolina. A large portion of Eastern Virginia will come in for a handsome share of its profits, and that not only without prejudice to the interests of her sister commonwealth, but in a way to promote those interests. In view, then, of the many blessings which that work will most assuredly dispense to both States, but chiefly, of course, to the State under whose auspices and by whose liberal assistance it was constructed, we cannot but feel proud gratification in contemplating the career of successful operation which is now before it. That its business and prosperity may be secured in proportion to its claims and merits is our earnest wish, and we doubt not that every annual Report will henceforward exhibit more and more flattering evidences of its rapid progress in public favor. A great deal, however, will depend upon its management, and on this score there is not the slightest reason to apprehend anything amiss."

JOHN W. FORNEY, Esq.—We cordially concur with the New York Day Book, in the following just and well deserved compliment to Col. Forney:

"The close of the exciting contest for Speaker suggests itself as a proper time to say a word in behalf of John W. Forney, Esq., who, through the whole two months of Congressional uproar, has been compelled to act the part of presiding officer of the House. The resolutions unanimously adopted at the close of the contest, expressive of the ability and impartiality of Mr. Forney, were well deserved, and the press throughout the country ought to add a word of appreciation besides. We have been looking over an address of Mr. Forney's, recently delivered, on the subject of 'Religious Intolerance,' and find it an eloquent and masterly display of the principles of our government. Know Nothingism gets no quarter, and the illiberal basis of that party is fully exposed, and the broad principles of the democracy explained and established. Mr. Forney has shown himself an able man in every position he has occupied, and proved himself capable of adorning almost any post."

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN ALABAMA.—We are requested to give notice that a Convention of the Democrats of Alabama County will be held in Graham, on the third Thursday in March next, to nominate candidates for the ensuing Legislature. A full attendance is earnestly requested.

THE BEAR WOMAN, on exhibition at the Town Hall to-day (Tuesday) is certainly the queerest specimen of an animal we ever saw. She is talkative, good-natured, and quite intelligent—and full of fun and mischief. We advise all to see her.

THE CURRENCY.—Attention is invited to the communication to-day's Standard over the signature of "Davis," on the subject of the currency. It is from the pen of one of the ablest and best informed men in the State.

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MOVEMENTS OF THE K. N.'S.

The dark-lantern was temporarily laid aside, and a daylight Convention of the Know Nothings of the Wilmington District was held at Elizabethtown, Bladen, on the 6th inst. We learn from the Herald that delegates were present from Robeson, Cumberland, Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, and New Hanover—Sampson, Duplin, and Richmond unrepresented. Resolutions were adopted approving of the Philadelphia platform—declaring that they "will not approve of the nomination of any one who is opposed to the 12th section of that platform"—and instructing their delegates to use their influence for the postponement of the Convention to a later day than the 22d February. John A. Baker, of New Hanover, and A. A. McKethan, of Cumberland, were appointed delegates to the Convention; and Dr. S. S. Satchwell and Dan'l L. Russell, alternates.

A Convention of the K. N.'s of the 8th or Mountain District, was held at Marion on the 28th January. The Counties of Burke, McDowell, Rutherford, and Buncombe were represented—Wilkes, Watauga, Caldwell, Henderson, Yancey, Haywood, Macon, Cherokee, Jackson, and Madison being unrepresented. But we presume that the lawyers who were present, representing four Counties, deemed themselves competent to act, not only for their four Counties, but for the other ten Counties of the District.

Resolutions were adopted approving the Philadelphia platform, and nominating Mr. Fillmore for the Presidency, and Mr. Badger, of this State, for the Vice Presidency. The "cold shoulder" is thus given to Mr. Rayner. These very K. N.'s consented, in 1852, to the slaughter of both Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Webster, and sustained Gen. Scott, who was more or less identified with Seward. Do they suppose that their brethren of the free States, who have, in all their State Councils, repudiated the 12th section of the Philadelphia platform, and who have gained strength since 1852, by the agitation of the slavery question, will now consent to nominate Mr. Fillmore? The nomination of Mr. Badger for the Vice Presidency presents a case equally hopeless and absurd. He voted for the Kansas-Nebraska bill; and there is not a K. N. in all the free States who is not irreconcilably opposed to that measure. They will never sustain a man who voted for it. Besides, we know of no public man in North Carolina, who—leaving that vote out of view—is more unpopular than Mr. Badger; certainly, there is no public man within our borders who has less claim than he has on popular affection and confidence.

Col. John Baxter and C. T. N. Davis, Esq., were appointed delegates to the Philadelphia Convention.

THE CONTRAST.

The following extract, the former from the Wilmington Commercial and the latter from the Fayetteville Argus, both Whig and Know Nothing papers, exhibit in strong colors the difference between those who would sink party for country and those who would sink country for party. The Commercial says:

"And what is the duty of the American Party or Know Nothings in this fearful crisis? Is it not now seen that no affinity or brotherhood can be held by them with the northern wing of that array without doing wrong to the South? Why do we say this? From the fact that not a solitary member of the northern Know Nothing or American Party voted for Mr. Aiken, a Southern Candidate."

For our part we think it is high time to discard prejudices as to the names of parties, and to cease to cherish unwise affection for them. If there is a constitutional democracy, as there certainly is, the President and his Cabinet being the head of that party, why should not all constitutional men at the South go with them in sustaining the rights of our beloved region—Southern Rights—Constitutional Rights—and no others? We are confident this will be the case throughout the Southern States, with the exception of those who are unwilling to give up the name of party, though all the nature of their principles are embraced under another name. These citizens remind us of a friend of ours who, when a child, was given to him about assembled, played out some other edible, equally as palatable, perhaps to him, he cried out, "Well, say it is chicken, or I won't eat it."

From this patriotic picture turn to the following palpable non-truths uttered by the Fayetteville Argus:

"The Democrats were at heart in favor of Banks. They wanted him elected. He was the favorite of Pierce and Fremont; and the application of the plurality rule accomplished their wishes, as they knew it would when Mr. Clingman moved it."

The writer of this, unless he be insane, knew he was uttering what was not so.

Judge Gove, of New Hampshire, who was recently in this City, and who is spending the winter in Florida for the benefit of his health, in a letter published in the Nashville Oasis, speaks as follows of slavery and of Southern character. Judge Gove is a distinguished jurist, a Democrat, and one of the delegates appointed by the New Hampshire Democracy to the Cincinnati Convention. As a general rule, the only persons in the free States who stand by the Constitution and do justice to the South, are Democrats. Judge Gove says:

"The negro is the 'gentleman offeinder' here. His task is little more than half that of a white laborer at the North, and he never does his whole task. He is the most happy, cheerful and contented being on earth. He is headless and careless, and requires more labor to look after him, if any one is particular about having things done right, than to do it himself. If you put a white man to work, he will get on as well as he can. But finding it so onerous to get things done to their liking, the people seem to have surrendered to their fate, and to have adapted themselves to their condition. Although Coffee is obliged to do something, he generally does it in his own way."

Christmas is one of Coffee's holidays, and if his master requires any thing of him beyond the usual choring, he must pay for it. It was perfect abandon upon fiddles, tamborines, and such other instruments as they had, and trooped and danced and sung negro songs at every place where there was any hope of getting a "Christmas present." In the evening they had a ball, and the ladies all came out in white dresses. We all went in as spectators, and every thing went off with decency and order, (while we stayed, at least.)

The Southern gentleman is a noble specimen of humanity—hospitable, generous, kind and friendly, and very jealous of any indignity or injury to his slaves. Nothing will excite him so quick as an intimation that his servant has been abused, and woe to the poor wight who is caught in such an act. I may hereafter give you a sketch of what has passed under my own observation."

CHOWAN LEADS THE COLUMN.—We have received the proceedings of a Democratic meeting held in Edenton, on the 6th inst., which shall appear in our next. R. R. Heath, Esq., presided, and W. E. Bond, Esq., acted as Secretary. Excellent Resolutions were adopted. We learn that the meeting was largely attended, and that the most enthusiastic feeling prevailed. Chowan leads the column!—what County will be first to respond?

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NOT AFRAID OF THE POPE.

It appears that there is at least one Know Nothing member of Congress who is not afraid of the Pope. This gentleman is Mr. Eustis, of Louisiana. The Know Nothings of Louisiana, it is known, do not subscribe to the illiberal and proscriptive doctrines of their brethren elsewhere in relation to the Catholics. On the 7th inst., Mr. Eustis delivered in the House of Representatives a speech, from which the following is an extract. It will strike every one that he crowds his brother Know Nothing, Mr. Reade, of this State, into a close place. His remarks, in relation to the interference of Protestant ministers in politics, are especially just and pointed. Hear what he says—

"Gentlemen talk about the Papal power. The honorable gentleman from North Carolina, [Mr. Reade] the other day asked the honorable gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. Stephens] whether he would vote for a Catholic whose religious opinions he suspected of being hostile to the general interest of the country. What right has he to do so? He would have to purge his conscience, before he can hold communion with him on the footing of the American citizen. What right have you to denounce him as a traitor to his country, and compel him to stand before your bar as a criminal—as an individual hostile to the institutions of your country?"

I tell you, gentlemen, you have just as much right to put your hands in another man's pocket, to see if the money he has belongs to him, as to take that position towards him. I have consumed more time than I presume to ask him whether he entertains opinions hostile to the institutions of this country."

Gentlemen ought to recollect that here, in this Congress, there is not a single Catholic priest. And, for my part, I am opposed to all religious interference with our political affairs. I am in favor of maintaining and keeping up the divorce between the Church and State which has been established by our great fathers. But, sir, that very same reason which makes me a deadly enemy of Catholic interference with our institutions, makes me blush for my countrymen when I see the Protestant Church selling its robes by dragging them in the mire of politics. [Cries of "Hear, hear!" and "Good!"] Your Legislatures are filled with gentlemen who wear white cravats and black coats. [Cries of "Hear, hear!" and "Good!"] Your Congress has a large proportion of these clerical gentlemen. And I ask you, with all due respect and courtesy to gentlemen of the cloth, to show me a Catholic priest or an accredited agent of the Church of Rome in this Hall. [Laughter, and cries of "Hear, hear!"] Gentlemen who talk about the Pope of Rome ought to recollect that that poor old man, who is an object of so much terror to them, is now in the custody of a guard of French soldiers.

Mr. Clerk, I have consumed more time than I desired to have done. I will simply close my remarks by asking the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. Reade] where he gets the authority for that balling his peers, his equals, the Catholics?—where he gets the authority for stamping them as the mere tools of the Pope of Rome?—where he gets the authority for considering them as unworthy of participating in the great councils of this country? Does the gentleman find his authority, or will he find it in the Constitution of the United States? Will the gentleman find it in the treaty between France and the United States, by which the territory of Louisiana was ceded to this country, and by which the religious rights of its inhabitants were guaranteed them? Will the gentleman find it in the Farewell Address of the Father of our Country—in that address which is so often quoted by the Tory of the American party? Will the gentleman find it in that great book, the Bible, on which so much veneration has been wasted so unprofitably in the Philadelphia platform? I will tell the gentleman where he will find it. He will find it in the teachings and in the inspiration of that dark spirit of fanaticism which is the curse of the Anglo-Saxon race. The gentleman will find it in the spirit by which Protestants were driven from New England by their fellow Protestants, in our colonial days. He will find it in that spirit which made the Episcopalians of Virginia drive their Puritan brethren from that State. And where did these persecuted Puritans and Protestants in general go? What spot did they choose as an asylum in order to be protected from their Protestant persecutors? I will tell the gentleman where they went in those colonial times. They went to the colony of Maryland—to that colony whose inhabitants were under the influence of "the aggressive policy of the Church of Rome and its corrupting tendencies." Yes, these Puritans sought a refuge in that colony which first in the United States established the law protecting every man from religious persecution."

CONGRESS.

The House was engaged, up to Thursday evening of last week, in appointing subordinate officers, &c.; and on the same evening adjourned over to Monday.

The Star says a large number of the members availed themselves of the adjournment over to visit their homes. The business of the session was expected to commence in earnest this week.

Mr. Glossbrenner, Democrat, after all his liberality in advancing money to members, was barely re-elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the House—his majority being only five. No doubt many of those who voted against him had been relieved by his timely advances—yet who expects honorable or noble conduct from long-faced hypocrites, in black coats and white cravats?

No printer to the House has yet been elected.—The black Republican or abolition Know Nothing nominee is O. Follett, of Ohio. Capt. Darling, of New York, has been appointed door-keeper, and Robert Morris, of Pa., postmaster of the House—both abolition Know Nothings or black Republicans, and both nominees of their caucus. We observe that Messrs. Paine and Reade, of this State, voted for them—also those very sound Northern K. N.'s, Messrs. Valse and Fuller. Humphrey Marshall, and a few Southern Know Nothings, and the entire body of the Democrats voted against them.

See letter of our Washington Correspondent. It seems that Messrs. Paine and Reade attended the black Republican Know Nothing caucus.

SCHOOLMASTERS.—"All honor to those who labor in school rooms," says Richter; for "although they may fall from notice like the spring blossoms, they fall that the fruit may be born." An idea as beautiful as it is true. No class of persons perform more valuable or more important labor than do those whose vocation it is to teach little children and youth. They are not honored as they should be.

The lawyer, the politician, and sometimes the noisy demagogue, are all more respected than the schoolmaster; but the truth is, they but operate on minds which he has trained; and but for him, therefore, they would have to address themselves to masses of ignorant and unthinking men.

SENATOR DOUGLAS AT WASHINGTON.—The Washington Union of Saturday last says: "It is with great satisfaction that we announce this morning that Hon. S. A. Douglas, who has been so long detained on his way to the seat of government by a violent and protracted inflammation of the throat, arrived in this city yesterday morning. He is in much better health and spirits than his numerous friends here expected or hoped for; and we sincerely trust that it will not be many days before he will be able to return to the scene of his distinguished labors and distinguished triumphs in all his wonted vigor of mind and body."

For President, Millard Fillmore, of New York, [subject to the decision of a National Convention.]

For Vice President, John Fremont, of California. A National Convention of what? Will Banks and his confederates be admitted?

NAVAL ARMAMENT OF NORTH-CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA DURING THE REVOLUTION.—A citizen of Virginia, having written to Gov. Bragg requesting him to cause the archives of this State to be examined to ascertain the facts in relation to the sending of the ship Caswell, in 1778, on an expedition against East Florida, &c.—the Governor transmitted the letter to President Swain, of the University, who, it was considered, from the documents in his possession and his extensive and accurate knowledge of our revolutionary history, would be able at once to furnish all the information on the subject to be derived from the State archives; and the following correspondence between the Governors of the respective States has been handed us for publication.

There are very few persons, we suppose, who are aware of the fact that North Carolina provided herself with a naval armament during the revolution, and that she stood forth so early and prominently for the defence of Virginia, as is so handsomely acknowledged by Lieut. Governor PAGE. Two ships, the Caswell and Washington, were, it seems, constructed in North Carolina, at the joint expense of Virginia and this State, at an early period of the revolution, and stationed at Ocracoke for the protection of the commerce of both States. Of the history of these vessels we have very little information, in addition to what may be gleaned from the interesting correspondence, given below, between Lieut. Governor PAGE, Gov. HENRY, Gov. CASWELL, and Gov. JEFFERSON.

IN COUNCIL, WILLIAMSBURG, Sept. 26, 1777. His Excellency, Gov. Caswell:

SIR:—The Board having received information that Ocracoke Inlet has been blocked up by some of the enemy's ships and tenders, and it being suggested that if the galleys, which were directed to be built and fitted out at the joint expense of North Carolina and Virginia, or even one of them, could be expeditiously equipped, that important pass might be easily opened to the great advantage of these States, and possibly to the disgrace and destruction of that part of the enemies' fleet. It is, therefore, proposed that your Excellency will be sent with orders to that effect, and that you will most likely to produce the desirable purpose just mentioned. We have desired Champion Travis, Esq., one of the Commissioners of the Navy, to examine into the state of the galleys at the South Quay, and to give directions for the immediate execution of what may be wanting on our part, that we may be, as soon as possible, to co-operate with your State in the most vigorous manner, for our mutual defence, and to refrain from acknowledging the obligations I think the State is under to you, Sir, for the orders you issued for one-third of your militia to hold themselves in readiness to march to our assistance on the late alarming occasion, and to the good people of North Carolina for the readiness they have always shewed to assist us. May an affectionate neighbor and friend, as you are, be sent with orders to that effect, and that you will most likely to produce the desirable purpose just mentioned. 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